

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. An articles separating and supplying apparatus comprising:
 - 2 a transfer conveyor transferring articles arrayed to be separated
 - 3 and supplied,
 - 4 a separating conveyor having its one end portion arranged to
 - 5 receive said articles to be separated transferred by said transfer conveyor,
 - 6 said separating conveyor being supported pivotably around said one end
 - 7 portion as a pivotal center,
 - 8 a counter counting the number of said articles received by said
 - 9 separating conveyor,
 - 10 a first stopper stopping feeding-in of said articles transferred by
 - 11 said transfer conveyor, as soon as said counter counts a predetermined
 - 12 number of said articles, and
 - 13 a second stopper being arranged so as to stop at a stop position
 - 14 that is a position of a front one of said articles of the predetermined
 - 15 number on said separating conveyor to thereby stop feeding-out of said
 - 16 articles from said separating conveyor, said second stopper having said
 - 17 stop position constructed changeable.
- 1 2. An articles separating and supplying apparatus as claimed in Claim 1,
 - 2 wherein said second stopper comprises an endless belt and a stopper
 - 3 member projecting from said endless belt and said second stopper has said
 - 4 stop position constructed changeable by movement of said endless belt.

1 3. An articles separating and supporting apparatus as claimed in Claim 2,
2 wherein a plurality of said stopper members are arranged with an interval
3 being maintained between each of them along a running direction of said
4 endless belt and said plurality of stopper members are constructed so that,
5 while said articles of the predetermined number to be separated that have
6 been stopped after one of said plurality of stopper members are being fed
7 out to be separated, another one of said plurality of stopper members
8 receives a front one of said articles of the predetermined number to be next
9 separated and moves to said stop position of the second stopper to stop
10 there.

1 4. An articles separating and supplying method by use of said articles
2 separating and supplying apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, comprising the
3 steps of;

4 causing said first stopper to stop feeding-in of said articles
5 transferred by said transfer conveyor, as soon as said articles of the
6 predetermined number are conveyed after said second stopper, and

7 releasing said second stopper so that said articles of the
8 predetermined number after said second stopper are fed out to a place of
9 separation by said separating conveyor, as well as releasing said first
10 stopper so that said articles of the predetermined number are fed in after
11 said second stopper by said transfer conveyor.